

# Diplomats Study French Proposal

LONDON (AP)—France's Western Allies took a long, cautious look Tuesday at her new plan to re-arm West Germany. Two leading British newspapers termed it at least a starting point for the nine-power talks opening in London next week.

There was no immediate official reaction to the proposals, outlined by French Premier Pierre Mendes-France Monday in a speech before the European Consultative Assembly at Strasbourg. They included tying West Germany in a tight European alliance that would limit the fighting forces of all member states and control their arms production.

In Washington, a State Department spokesman said the French plan is being studied but no comment would be made immediately. A few hours later the United States formally accepted Britain's invitation to attend the Sept. 28 London talks, called to

thresh out a way to enlist West Germans in Western defense. Prime Minister Winston Churchill called his Cabinet to its regular weekly session Tuesday. The discussion was expected to center around Mendes-France's plan and arrangements for the nine-power conference.

The French memorandum is interesting to governments giving full details of Mendes-France's proposals was still secret. The first British comment appeared in the influential, independent Times and the Conservative Daily Telegraph.

Both newspapers said the French Premier had furnished at least the basis for possible agreement. But both expressed misgivings as to the extent of British military commitments in Europe. France might demand as the price for consenting to German rearmament.

The Times also questioned whether Britain would accept the loss of national sovereignty apparently inherent in the proposals to control the size of armed forces and armament production.

The French plan, put forward as a substitute for the defunct European Defense Community (EDC), is similar in many respects to proposals advocated recently by British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden.

# Reformists Hail Doctor's Win

PHENIX CITY, Ala. (AP)—A young physician rode into office here Monday in a City Commission election hailed by anti-vice crusaders as a roaring protest from the people against racketeer rule in Phenix City.

Dr. Clyde M. Knowles Jr., who had the support of the racket-busting Russell Betterment Assn., was elected to the three-man Commission with a majority of almost 2 to 1 over the combined vote of four opponents.

Armed National Guard troops stood watch at each voting place throughout the day and escorted election officials to City Hall where the ballot boxes were turned in after the polls closed.

Complete but unofficial returns gave Dr. Knowles 2,000 votes against a total of 1,250 for the other candidates.

He was the first doctor to examine the body of slain vice foe A. L. Patterson, whose assassination June 18 brought on the clean-up in Phenix City that led to the young physicians' election.

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REUNION—James Goldsmith, 21, holds daughter, Isabelle, after the four-month-old child was returned to her father in Paris by her maternal grandmother, the Duchess of Durcal, wife of the Bolivian tin king, Antenor Patino. A judge ordered the baby returned to Goldsmith after he accused his mother-in-law of "kidnaping" and filed a court complaint. (NEA)

# Housing Investigator Says Sparkman Victim of Gossip

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. (AP)—Senate housing investigators said Tuesday they are convinced that Sen. John J. Sparkman (D-Ala.) exerted no undue influence in connection with housing "windfalls."

A witness before Sen. Homer Capehart's Banking Committee testified Monday that it was "common knowledge" — although "purely gossip" — that the 1953 Democratic vice presidential candidate helped push through an illegal loan.

However, Capehart said Tuesday that the committee is convinced that Sparkman is the victim of "rumor and gossip" and that the Alabama only "was exercising responsibility to a constituent like any senator does."

In a day of televised hearings Monday, the Banking Committee charged two young men cleared \$2,471,072 on apartment construction in four states, an Illinois man "induced" approval of phony GI loans, a former FHA state director had interests outside the law.

Capehart attacked Federal Housing Administration officials for "looseness" in administering the law. He said his committee uncovered thousands of cases where FHA made excessive loans, which by law were limited to 90 per cent of cost.

Marvin L. Warner, 35, and Joseph Kanter, 30, natives of Birmingham and now of Cincinnati, were accused of realizing a huge windfall on 12 apartments in those two cities and in Indianapolis and St. Louis. Their total cost was \$21,964,860, but loans totaled \$24,435,932.

Sparkman was linked to a \$3,400,000 Warner-Kanter apartment in Indianapolis. Former FHA appraiser James Swan said it was "common knowledge," though "purely gossip," that Sparkman helped push a top-heavy loan through.

Warner denied Sparkman was involved. He said a "windfall" on the loan represented "proper and legitimate" savings on construction.

# Indochinese Government May Topple

SAIGON, Indochina (AP)—Demonstrations by refugees from North Viet Nam erupted into violence Tuesday that claimed two lives. Gen. Nguyen Van Hinh, the Vietnamese chief of staff, charged Premier Ngo Dinh Diem's government with provoking the trouble.

Gen. Hinh, involved in a bitter dispute with the premier that seemed sure to topple the government, charged that approximately 500 refugees who demonstrated in favor of Diem and against the Army had been armed by government forces with clubs and bottles.

Police sought to disperse the demonstration. In addition to the two killed, several more were wounded.

The refugees were brought here from North Viet Nam after the country's partition under the Geneva armistice. They are housed in a camp in Saigon. Most are Roman Catholics, as is the premier.

The dispute between Hinh and the premier reached new heights Monday night with the resignation of nine ministers. Diem has not accepted the resignations but it appeared that Diem's government had little chance of surviving the crisis.

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